BENGALURU, SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

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As 2.6 lakh cases of wrong parking booked in B'luru over past 2 months, traffic police get serious about resuming towing operations, removal of abandoned vehicles that eat up space

TOW THE LINE, OR FACE DOUBLE WHAMMY

Vehicle-owners shall pay for towing charges and a fine for violation

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In response to mounting complaints over traffic congestion and haphazard parking, the traffic police officially resumed vehicle towing operations from this week across the city with enhanced transparency measures. The move follows authorities observing several abandoned vehicles and widespread illegal parking in congestion-prone areas, with more than 2.6 lakh cases of wrong parking recorded over the past two months alone. With the resumption of towing operations, violators will now have to pay a double penalty — one for the towing charges and another as a fine for the traffic violation, say traffic officials.

According to traffic police officials, the Greater Bengaluru Authority has directed officials to begin towing abandoned vehicles across the city from April 5, as part of efforts to ease traffic congestion

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

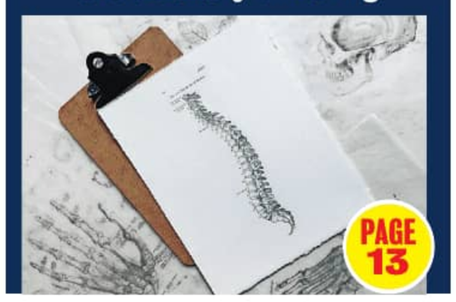
LAKE OF MUCK

Nearly five out of every ten lakes monitored in Bengaluru are into class E, the worst water quality category possible

PAGE 4

FLAWLESS BODY

Not a flawless machine, human body is more like a patchwork of compromises shaped by millions of years of evolutionary tinkering



PAGE 13

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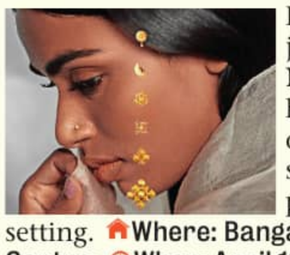
THINGS TO DO

01 Mookuthi showcase



Discover a slow, intimate jewellery experience with Mookuthi, exploring handcrafted nose ornaments, personal styling, and optional piercings in a relaxed setting. **Where: Bangalore International Centre; When: April 10 to 12, 10 am to 7 pm**

02 Book talk evening

Join author Paromita Vohra in conversation exploring themes of love, sex, and contemporary India through The Agents of Ishq anthology. **Where: Champaca Bookstore, Vasanth Nagar; When: April 18, 6 pm onwards**

03 Movie magic

Enjoy a cult film screening of Reefer Madness followed by

an engaging discussion on its themes and cultural context **Where: Urban Solace – Café for the Soul When: April 19 (Sunday), 6 pm**

04 Art spread

Explore a vibrant multi-art exhibition featuring 35+ artists, diverse artworks, live performances, and interactive creative showcases. **Where: Rangoli Metro Art Centre, MG Road Metro Station; When: April 10 to 12, 10 am to 7 pm**

05 Poetry night

Experience an evening of expressive poetry with featured poet Sathve at one of India's longest-running poetry platforms. **Where: Urban Solace – Cafe for the Soul; When: April 14, 7.30 pm to 9 pm**

Breakup to jail? Court warns against misuse of promise laws

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IN HIGH COURT

The Karnataka High Court has flagged a growing tendency to invoke criminal law (Section 69 (sexual intercourse by deceitful means or false promise of marriage) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023) after the breakdown of personal relationships, cautioning against its routine use in such situations. The observation came while the court heard a petition filed by a 34-year-old man accused of entering into a physical relationship with a woman colleague on the promise of marriage and later reneging on it.

The complainant alleged that her consent for the relationship stemmed from a false assurance of marriage. After examining the material on record, the court found that the relationship appeared consensual and had continued over a period of time. It also noted that the initial complaint did not include allegations of sexual assault and that such claims seemed to have been introduced later. Commenting on a broader pattern, the court remarked, "Where the relationship ends in a breakup, the man is in the lockup," highlighting what it viewed as a recurring trend in similar cases reaching the court. In this case, the man had spent 42 days in prison.

Taking note of these facts, the court granted relief to the petitioner, ordered his release, and stayed further proceedings for the time being. It emphasised the need for careful scrutiny in such matters and observed that, "Every breach of promise to marry cannot be construed as an offence." The court stressed that authorities must assess each case on its own merits to determine whether it involves deliberate deception or a consensual relationship that later fell apart.

Frivolous PIL on language policy draws court's sharp penalty order

The Karnataka High Court on Friday imposed costs of Rs 1 lakh on a public interest litigant for misrepresenting a government policy on language education, observing that the petition appeared to be driven more by publicity than genuine public interest. A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha took strong exception to the petitioner's claim that the State was attempting to "do away" with Hindi through a revised assessment system for SSLC students. The court said the material placed on record did not support such an assertion.

"The statement that Hindi should be done away with no such statement is seen in the newspaper article," the Bench observed, adding that the petition did not appear to be motivated by public interest and "may be to seek publicity."

The issue arose after Primary and Secondary Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa announced a shift from a marks-based system to a grading system for third languages in SSLC examinations. The revised approach covers languages such as Hindi, Urdu and Arabic, and means that scores in these subjects will not be included in the final marksheet, with the aim of reducing academic pressure on students. However, petitioner Chandana H N argued that the move effectively signalled an attempt to eliminate Hindi from the curriculum. The court directed the petitioner to pay Rs 1 lakh to the Karnataka Legal Services Authority and warned that failure to comply would lead to recovery proceedings as arrears of land revenue.

Minimum wages stalled, workers intensify protests

Workers from multiple sectors gathered at the Labour Department on Friday, pressing for an immediate revision of minimum wages and accusing the State government of prolonged inaction. The protest, organised by the All-India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU), highlighted that statutory minimum wages for several scheduled employments have not been revised since 2017, a delay workers said has significantly eroded real wages.

Demonstrators pointed out that although a draft notification proposing revised wages was issued in 2025, the final notification remains pending, continuing to deprive vulnerable workers of their legal entitlements. They demanded that minimum wages be fixed at no less than Rs 42,000 per month, arguing that the current rates no longer reflect the cost of living.

Nirmala M, Bengaluru District President of AICCTU, said, "The right to minimum wages is a fundamental right, the denial of which amounts to forced labour. It is a matter of grave concern that while the preliminary notification was issued in 2025, even a year after the same, minimum wages have not been notified. The failure to revise minimum wages itself results in the wages so notified not being in tune with reality, and resulting in a condition of forced labour."

Echoing similar concerns, PP Appanna, Karnataka State President of AICCTU, alleged widespread violations of labour laws. "The law is being blatantly violated. Workers are not paid minimum wages and no steps are taken against errant employers. When workers demand their statutory entitlement, they are threatened with termination. Labour department must enforce law without any delay. **— BMB**

Root canals now covered under state scheme

In a major relief for patients, the Karnataka government has brought dental root canal treatment under the ambit of its flagship health insurance schemes. Beneficiaries of Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and Chief Minister's Arogya Karnataka will now be eligible to avail cashless root canal procedures following a government order issued on Thursday. The move is expected to ease the financial burden on patients, particularly those from economically weaker sections, who often delay treatment due to high costs. Officials said the decision aims to improve access to essential oral healthcare and reduce preventable tooth loss across the state. Studies indicate many patients opt for tooth extraction instead of root canal treatment due to limited awareness and affordability concerns. By extending insurance coverage, the government seeks to encourage timely dental care and improve overall public health outcomes. **— BMB**

Authorities caution Bengaluru over heatstroke danger

Bengaluru Urban district authorities have issued a public advisory warning of rising temperatures and the risk of heat stroke in the coming days. Based on inputs from the Meteorological Department, the District Disaster Management Authority has urged residents to take precautionary measures to safeguard their health.

Officials have advised citizens to wear loose, light-coloured cotton clothing and avoid direct exposure to the sun, especially between 12 noon and 3 pm. Those stepping out should use protective gear such as caps, sunglasses and proper footwear, while outdoor workers must take extra care by using umbrellas or covering their head and neck with a damp cloth.

Authorities have also recommended that people travelling long distances do so during cooler hours and carry sufficient drinking water. Health officials stressed the importance of staying hydrated, even without feeling thirsty, and encouraged consumption of home-made fluids such as buttermilk, lemon water and lassi.

The advisory cautions against alcohol, excessive tea or coffee, and stale food. It highlights the need for special care for vulnerable groups, including pregnant women, children, senior citizens and those with pre-existing conditions such as heart disease or high blood pressure. Residents should also ensure pets and birds remain in shaded areas with adequate water and include water-rich fruits in their daily diet. **— BMB**

Harmanpreet Kaur, PV Sindhu set for Ultrahuman HYROX

Two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu and Indian Women's Cricket captain Harmanpreet Kaur are all set to participate in Ultrahuman HYROX Bengaluru, adding star power to India's biggest fitness race.

Ultrahuman HYROX Bengaluru, scheduled to take place on 11th and 12th April 2026 at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC), marks India's first-ever two-day HYROX event, according to a press release.

With over 8,200 participants already registered, the event will also be HYROX's debut in Bengaluru, making it only the third Indian city to host the global fitness race after Mumbai and Delhi since its debut in the country in 2025.

Ultrahuman HYROX Bengaluru follows a globally standardised race format that combines functional workouts with endurance running. 8 x 1 km runs interspersed with 8 functional fitness workouts, including SkiErg, Sled Push, Sled Pull, Burpee Broad Jumps, Rowing, Farmers Carry, Sandbag Lunges and Wall Balls, pushing athletes of all levels to their limits. **— ANI**

Man held for viral zombie drug hoax

A 29-year-old private firm employee has been arrested by the Begur Police for allegedly uploading a misleading video that went viral on social media, falsely claiming a man was under the influence of a "zombie drug."

The accused, identified as Hemanth, a resident of Vidyaranyapura, was issued a notice to join the inquiry. Upon learning that police were searching for him, he posted an apology online before being taken into custody yesterday.

Police have registered a case under Sections 353(2) and 352 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, pertaining to spreading false information that could incite public disorder and intentional insult aimed at provoking a breach of peace.

The video, which surfaced earlier this week, showed a man standing motionless in a disoriented state, sparking rumours about synthetic drugs in the city. However, police clarified that the individual had not consumed any narcotic or psychotropic substance. A medical examination confirmed the absence of such substances. According to police officials "it was ascertained that the individual is suffering from arthritis and had consumed prescribed pain medication along with alcohol, which resulted in his disorientated condition." **BMB**

Chit fund firm accused of caste abuse, illegal detention

A 35-year-old woman employee has filed a complaint accusing senior officials of a chit fund company of caste-based abuse, sexual harassment, and illegal detention.

According to the complaint submitted on April 3, 2026, at the DCRE police station (West division), the complainant, who has been working with MSIL Chit Fund for eight years, alleged that three senior officials—General Manager Chandrashekar, Deputy General Manager Nalini, and Chief Administrative Officer Veena—conspired against her over the past year to force her out of the organisation because she belongs to a SC.

She further alleged that on September 23, 2025, she was falsely accused of misplacing cheques. Around 6 pm, acting on instructions from Chandrashekar and Veena, she was forcibly stripped and searched against her will. She claimed she was illegally detained there for nearly two hours.

The complainant also accused Chandrashekar and Nalini of verbally abusing her using casteist slurs in front of colleagues and engaging in inappropriate behaviour amounting to harassment. Police have registered a case under the SC/ST Act and stated that further investigation is underway. **BMB**

CITY PAGE 11 Estranged parent consent kept aside, young athlete can take part in global event

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Minister urges Centre to fix auto gas supply

Karnataka Minister KH Muniyappa on Friday urged the Central Government to address the auto gas supply issue at the earliest, accusing it of failing to support auto drivers in distress. The minister met senior officials and representatives from state-run oil and gas companies to discuss the issue following the crisis in West Asia.

Bengaluru and several other parts of the state are witnessing disruptions in auto services due to a shortage of auto LPG, with long queues outside fuel stations and drivers waiting for hours.

"There has been improvement in the supply of commercial cylinders, but not for auto gas. The Chief Secretary wrote to the Central Government on April 6. Earlier, the Chief Minister (Siddaramaiah) and I had also written, but there has been no response yet," he said.

Muniyappa said around five lakh autos operate in the state, of which three lakh depend on auto gas. Of these, 1.6 lakh are in Bengaluru and are facing severe difficulties. He noted that 280 MT of auto gas is required daily, with only 60 MT supplied by government companies and the remaining by private players, many of whom have stopped supply or shut stations. "This has increased pressure on government-run outlets, resulting in long queues and chaos," he said, adding that a meeting with private companies will be held soon. He urged the Centre to intervene, ensure supply, and make alternate arrangements.

— PTI

Lake it or not, it's toxic

Bengaluru lakes sink deeper into crisis as nearly half fall into worst pollution category, raising alarm over fragmented governance failures

File photo of Ulsoor Lake

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Nearly five out of every ten lakes currently being monitored in Bengaluru fall under Class E, the worst possible water quality category, a recent report by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has highlighted. Water quality data from 135 lakes in the city, monitored in February, show that as many as 61 lakes (45 per cent) have the poorest water quality.

In February last year, nearly 33 per cent of the lakes monitored (39 out of 117) fell under Class E.

The record number of lakes in Class E can be attributed to the decentralised administrative structure of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), experts say. City-based lake activists say the GBA has so far been unable to focus on Bengaluru's water bodies. "The idea of breaking down the civic body into multiple corporations is wreaking havoc and is not working for the city's water bodies. To ensure that the health of lakes improves, every city corporation should establish a dedicated lake department. Corporations should also bring in water quality experts, limnologists, environmental engineers and hydrologists for informed decision-making. Unless a dedicated wing to manage lakes is created, they will never be a priority for city corporations," said Ramprasad V, founder of Friends of Lakes.

Fresh data reveals rising contamination levels across monitored water bodies, while experts question sampling methods and demand stronger accountability from authorities and industries polluting ecosystems

Some experts also questioned the sampling procedure followed by the KSPCB, including the location and timing of representative sample collection. "Location and timing of sample collection are important factors in water quality testing. Is the KSPCB collecting samples from key areas of the lakes? At what time of day are these samples being collected? Oxygen levels are naturally low in lakes during the early morning, and therefore, sample collection should take place in the afternoon. Improper sample collection may also lead to skewed results," said an expert.

As per guidelines on lake water sample collection, representative samples are generally collected from key areas of a lake, including the inlet, centre and outlet, to assess the impact of sewage inflow. According to a GBA official, the KSPCB should play its role in mitigating lake pollution by taking the BWSSB and polluting industries to task.

"Why has the KSPCB not shut down various industries across the city that are discharging effluents directly into lakes? Under the Water Act, the KSPCB has the power to prosecute officials and polluting industries. However, instead of holding agencies such as the BWSSB and polluting industries accountable for high pollution levels, the KSPCB has been targeting the GBA (formerly BBMP)," said a GBA official.

Mess no more near metro

Garbage black spot near South End Metro cleared after outrage, but repeated dumping shocks locals despite marshals, cleanup drives and civic action

Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Finally, the residents on 1st Cross, RV Road, near South End Namma Metro Station have heaved a sigh of relief, thanks to Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML), Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC), and Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL). A stretch of 1st Cross, RV Road, which was a black spot with heaps of garbage, now looks clean and neat. Bangalore Mirror published a story — Garbage mountain greets commuters at South End Metro on April 8, narrating how uncontrolled dumping near South End Metro created hygiene issues and inconvenience, as repeated complaints failed to bring lasting relief to residents. The residents complained that the black spot was not only an eyesore but also a health hazard. It may be noted that BSWML Assistant General Manager Santosh made arrangements to clear the heaps of garbage on Tuesday afternoon. However, residents were shocked to see garbage dumped at the same spot on Wednesday morning.

Now, the BMRCL, BSWML, and BSCC authorities have taken measures not only to clear the garbage but also to beautify the spot by placing plant pots and creating colourful rangoli. "I am very happy to see the road clean and neat. I want to appreciate the marshals who kept vigil at night against those dumping garbage at the spot. I hope that no one dumps garbage there again," said Anjan RC, a resident.

A resident, requesting anonymity, appealed to all residents and business establishments not to dump garbage on the road. "I urge residents, instead of dumping garbage on the road, to complain to the BSWML authorities if garbage is not collected door to door on a daily basis," the resident said. Meanwhile, BSWML Assistant General Manager Santosh said that he had deputed four marshals to the spot to keep vigil at night against those dumping garbage. "Marshals will be posted at the spot for a few more days. We will make every effort to keep the road clean and neat. The BMRCL has arranged plant pots," said the Assistant General Manager.

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Indiranagar

Flex boards at 6th Main, 100 ft Road junction, and across Defence Colony, Indiranagar, are obstructing pedestrian pathways.

Safety hazard

Indiranagar

Unlocked electric junction boxes along 100 ft Road, Indiranagar, have raised safety concerns among residents.

Road ruin

Shivajinagar

A severely damaged road has been reported near Lal Masjid on Jumma Masjid Road, Shivajinagar, causing hardship to commuters.

Student death raises concerns over exam pressure

A 17-year-old student died by suicide at her residence shortly after the announcement of II PUC examination results on Friday.

The deceased, identified as Tanushree, was a resident of Kanakanagar in Hebbal and a second-year Pre-University student in the Science stream. According to preliminary investigations, she had failed in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry.

Police said that prior to the declaration of results, Tanushree had contacted a friend, expressing anxiety about her performance and the possibility of failing the exams. The friend reassured her at the time. However, after the results were announced, attempts to reach her failed as her phone was switched off. Alarmed, the friend informed another acquaintance and requested them to check on her.

She was later found unresponsive at her residence and rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared her brought dead. Police said she lived with her mother, Asha, and younger brother.

(If you or someone you know is struggling with suicidal thoughts, reach out to Tele-Manas helpline: 14416 or 1800-891-4416, SAHAI Helpline: 080-25497777) —BMB

Man rapes minor, gives her Rs 150 to keep quiet

The Jnanabharathi police officials have arrested the accused who dragged an minor girl who was playing into a building under construction and raped her.

The arrested accused is Mohammad Munna (28) from Bihar. The girl was playing near a building under construction on Wednesday evening. Police offical said said that he dragged her into the building under construction, raped her, and gave her ₹150 to keep quiet and escape.

The parents were worried when their daughter did not come home. By then, the girl had come home. At this time, the parents saw that the girl had money in her hand and questioned her. The girl then told them about the act committed by the accused. Later that day, the parents filed a complaint, following which a case under the POCSO Act was registered. The accused has been arrested and is currently in judicial custody. Police said the accused, Mohammed, had arrived in the city three months ago in search of wage work.

—BMB

Gold theft: Minor was extorted by classmate

The Yeshwantpur police of the North Division have cracked an extortion and assault case involving a minor, arresting two accused and recovering stolen gold ornaments worth ₹14.59 lakh.

According to police, the case was treated as a series of theft cases. The victim, a 16-year-old studying in Class 10 student at private school in Sadashivanagar, was allegedly assaulted and threatened by a classmate, who coerced him into stealing cash and jewellery from his house. The victim had been secretly taking money from home since October 2024 and later stealing jewellery until August 2025.

Police said when the victim's parents were called to the school, the boy disclosed to his parents that he had been facing harassment. The other two have been arrested for helping dispose of the stolen gold. —BMB

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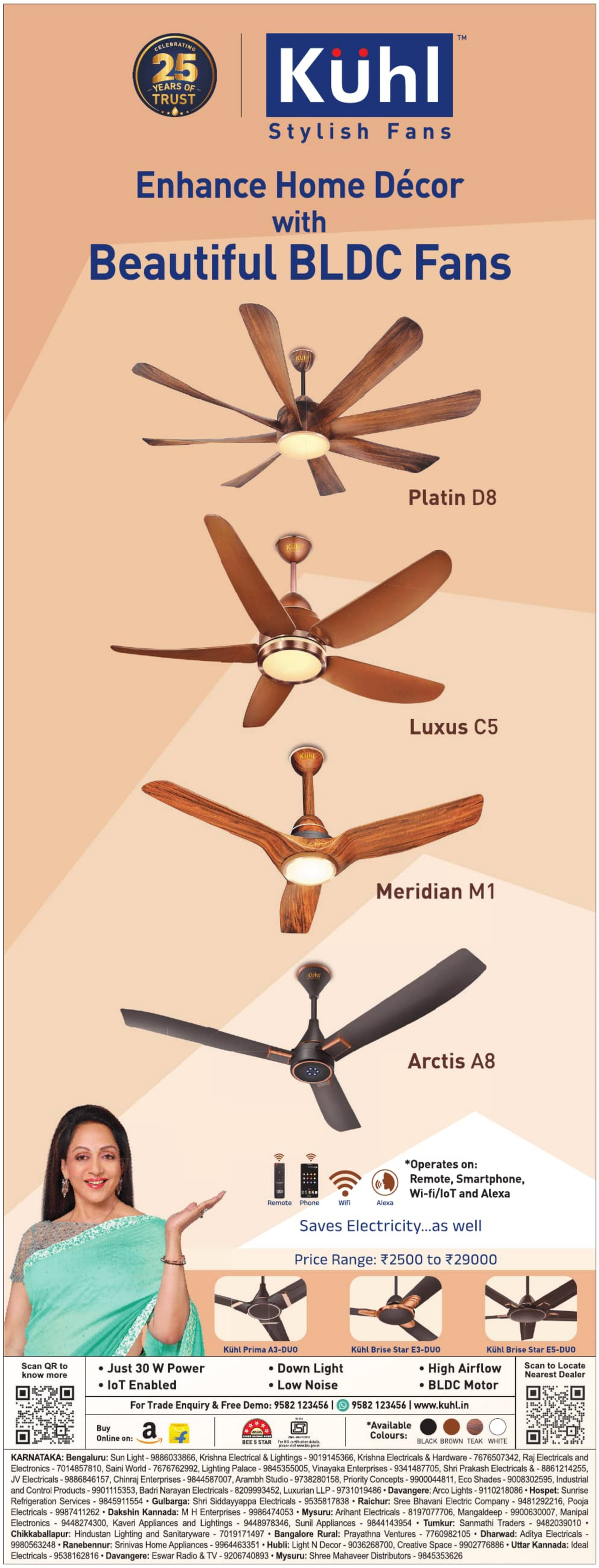
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Smooth drains, shattered roads, Munnekollal pays the price

Completed drain upgrade brings relief from sewage issues, but poor road conditions now create new challenges for Munnekollal residents and daily commuters

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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Residents of Munnekollal were relieved when the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) began replacing old underground drain pipes. Earlier, choking of manholes and overflowing sewage was common as the existing UGD pipes could not handle the load. The replacement work began four months ago and has now been completed. However, the restoration of the road dug up for laying the pipes is still pending.

Residents, especially two-wheeler riders and motorists, have been facing problems due to the delay. Despite repeated complaints to BWSSB engineers, no action has been taken. Some two-wheeler riders have reportedly been injured after their vehicles skidded on the uneven road surface.

"I got injured a few days ago when my two-wheeler skidded due to the delay in restoration of the road. One homemaker also got injured when she fell down. I have complained to the BWSSB engineer but he has not done anything even after completion of laying UGD pipes," said Manjunath Gowda, a resident.

Demanding immediate restoration, Manjunathaiah L said the delay was unnecessary.

"The BWSSB engineers engaged the contractor to dig up the road without permission from the competent authority. We have demanded the BWSSB engineer to provide a copy of the work order; he refused to produce the work order due to the reasons best known to him," said Manjunathaiah, adding that he suspected BWSSB engineers colluding with the contractor.

"I got injured a few days ago when my two-wheeler skidded due to the delay in restoration of the road. One homemaker also got injured when she fell down. I have complained to the BWSSB engineer but no action has been taken.

—Manjunath Gowda, resident

Former Corporator S Uday Kumar also expressed concern over the delay. He said many residents had complained against the BWSSB engineer and the contractor for allegedly collecting money to provide sanitary connections to the newly laid pipes. "The residents requested me to level the stretch of the road that was dug up for laying the UGD pipes. I engaged labourers and an earth moving machine for this purpose. I have asked the BWSSB engineer to engage a contractor for the restoration of the road but he did nothing. I am doing whatever is possible," said Uday Kumar.

However, a BWSSB assistant engineer said the restoration work would begin soon.

"We must float a tender inviting bidders for the restoration of the road. We have replaced the old UGD pipe (225 mm) with a new pipe (400 mm) to ensure no problems in future," said the assistant engineer.

Egg prices crash as demand and exports drop

Egg prices have fallen sharply due to a mix of seasonal, economic and geopolitical factors. Disruptions in exports to Gulf nations, along with reduced domestic consumption, have created a supply glut in the market.

According to industry estimates, nearly 60 lakh eggs that were earlier exported daily to Gulf countries are no longer being shipped, leading to excess availability within the country and directly impacting prices.

At the wholesale level, prices in Namakkal, Tamil Nadu, one of India's largest egg markets, have dropped to ₹3.70 per egg.

In Bengaluru, wholesale prices stand at ₹4.55 per egg. Retail prices in the city have also softened, with eggs selling between ₹5 and ₹5.15 in most areas, and up to ₹5.50 in some locations.

This marks a clear decline from earlier levels when wholesale prices were around ₹5 and retail ranged between ₹6 and ₹7. Experts point to multiple reasons for the fall. Closure of schools during summer has paused mid-day meal schemes, a major consumption driver.

Issues with cooking gas availability have affected small eateries, further reducing demand. Seasonal trends also contribute, as egg consumption typically drops during summer months compared to winter and monsoon seasons. **BMB**

Over 500 BSF personnel screened

A large-scale Vitamin D screening camp was conducted at the Subsidiary Training Centre (STC) of the Border Security Force (BSF) in Bengaluru on Thursday under the nationwide "Swasthya Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" initiative. The camp, held at Purohit Hall, was organised by Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences in collaboration with Dishabodh Foundation.

Marking a first-of-its-kind initiative at STC Bengaluru, the camp focused on early detection and awareness of Vitamin D deficiency among personnel. Over 30 doctors from institutions including Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College, Aakash Institute of Medical Sciences, East Point College of Medical Sciences, Aster Hospital Hebbal and Mount Shepherd College of Nursing participated.

More than 500 BSF personnel benefited through screenings, medical consultations and awareness sessions.

Officials emphasised the importance of preventive healthcare and lauded efforts to support forces serving under challenging conditions. **BMB**

BM Property

Sector watch: The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) panel suggests project-wise insolvency resolution for real estate sector, recommends raising the minimum default threshold to Rs 5 crore

Advertorial Promotional Feature

City dominates GCC leasing and office demand surge

Bengaluru has emerged as the top-performing city in India's office market, recording approximately 6 million sq ft of leasing in Q1 2026, the highest among nine major cities, according to the "India Office Figures Q1 2026" report by CBRE South Asia Pvt Ltd.

The city also led Global Capability Centre (GCC) leasing with a 48% share, reinforcing its position as a leading GCC hub. Flexible space operators and technology firms drove nearly 40% of overall take-up, with domestic firms leading flex leasing and US-based companies anchoring demand across technology, BFSI and e-commerce sectors.

Key contributors to Bengaluru's absorption included e-commerce (24%), technology (16%) and research, consulting and analytics (16%), largely through small-sized deals in premium, green-certified, AI-ready workspaces.

Across India, office leasing reached a record 20.7 million sq ft in Q1 2026, rising 5% year-on-year, with GCCs accounting for 44% of total absorption. Mid-market and nano GCCs are increasingly driving innovation-led demand, focusing on AI prototyping, digital engineering and high-value services, while large GCCs continue securing premium spaces in tech parks.

Bengaluru's performance reflects broader trends such as preference for quality spaces, rise of flexible workspaces and strong demand from global and domestic firms, positioning it as a leading office leasing hub. **BMB**

Data centre growth accelerates across Indian cities

India's data centre (DC) market is poised for significant expansion, with total stock across major cities projected to rise by around 30% year-on-year in 2026, adding nearly 500 MW of capacity, according to CBRE South Asia's "India Alternate Sectors Outlook 2026" report.

The sector recorded 440 MW of new supply in 2025, taking total capacity beyond 1,700 MW, while investment commitments reached USD 126 billion and are expected to grow by about 45% in 2026, crossing USD 180 billion.

Tier-I cities such as Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai and Delhi-NCR continue to dominate, accounting for nearly 90% of capacity, while tier-II cities including Ahmedabad, Visakhapatnam, Patna and Bhopal are attracting investment due to 5G rollout and data localisation needs.

Supported by favourable policies, tax incentives and renewable energy integration, data centres are emerging as a mainstream real estate asset class among investors. **BMB**

Resort-style farmland projects gain popularity

Premium farm plots are witnessing strong demand as investors seek opportunities offering both financial returns and lifestyle benefits. Buyers are increasingly investing in fertile farmland with farmhouses, where they can grow commercial crops such as sandalwood, mahogany and teak, along with fruits, vegetables and spices.

Realtors said managed farmland projects with resort-like amenities are gaining popularity as developers provide infrastructure and handle maintenance, making them hassle-free investments. This model ensures income generation along with a peaceful, green environment for buyers.

The Mysuru–Bengaluru corridor has emerged as an attractive investment zone, supported by improving infrastructure and connectivity. "With developments like the Peripheral Ring Road and the expanding urban footprint under the New Mysuru plan, travel time has reduced, making these locations more accessible. Investors can expect capital appreciation and steady income through farmhouse usage and leasing," another realtor added. **BMB**

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

EMERALD SILENCE BLENDS

Our reader shares a captivating image of a green Iguana spotted in a pensive mood in Kochi, its vivid colour blending seamlessly with the lush green surroundings. Captured in a quiet, reflective moment, the Iguana's natural camouflage highlights the subtle harmony between wildlife and its environment.

The picture was clicked by reader **J R Sachin**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Kavach rollout accelerates, boosting railway safety across key routes

South Western Railway advances indigenous Kavach system expansion, targeting high-density corridors to prevent collisions, enhance efficiency, and modernise operations across divisions

In a major step toward enhancing railway safety, the South Western Railway has begun preparations to implement the second phase of the indigenous 'Kavach' train protection system across 456 kilometres in the Bengaluru division. This follows significant progress in the first phase, where the anti-collision technology is being installed over 1,568 kilometres of the total 3,692-kilometer railway network in the state. Officials say the expansion will strengthen safety measures on some of the busiest and most complex rail routes in and around the city.

An official said, "In the ongoing first phase, work is progressing rapidly across key sections, including Bengaluru–Tumakuru–Arsikere, Bengaluru–Mysuru, Yesvantpur–Dharmapuri, Bengaluru–Whitefield, Baiyyappanahalli–Dharmavaram, and Krishnarajapuram–Channasandra, covering about 778 kilometres in the Bengaluru–Mysuru sector. Additionally, another 790 kilometres of work is underway in the Hubballi–Mysuru division, with completion targeted by March 2027. Railway authorities have indicated that once tenders are floated and contractors are finalised for the second phase, work will commence promptly, with a goal of completing it within 18 months."

Second phase of Kavach rollout across 456 kilometres aims to strengthen safety on high-density routes with real-time monitoring and automatic braking

The Kavach system uses ultra-high frequency radio communication and track-mounted radio frequency identification devices to enable real-time coordination between trains and track infrastructure. It continuously tracks train location, speed, and movement. When it detects two trains on a potential collision course, either head-on or from behind, it triggers alerts and applies emergency brakes through a "stop-on-site" command.

Rail safety gets a major upgrade as advanced anti-collision technology expands rapidly, promising smarter monitoring, reduced risks, and smoother train operations across some of the busiest routes in Karnataka

In the second phase, authorities will introduce the system on critical routes, including Chikkabanavara–Shantigrama, Yelahanka–Chikkaballapur–Bangarapet, Baiyyappanahalli–airport (HAL region), Yesvantpur–Yelahanka, and the bypass corridor connecting Yesvantpur, Baiyyappanahalli, and Banaswadi. Officials say extending Kavach across these high-traffic corridors will reduce risks and improve operational efficiency. Experts have stressed the urgency of completing the rollout, especially along dense corridors such as Jolarpettai, Dharmavaram–Guntakal, Hubballi–Tumakuru, and Chennai-bound routes, citing rising traffic and operational complexity in the Bengaluru division.

Authorities have also lined up a third phase to cover 806 kilometres in the Mysuru division and 862 kilometres in the Hubballi division, as Indian Railways pushes to modernise operations and improve passenger safety.

DID YOU KNOW?

Daily satellite observations reveal continued nighttime brightening globally due to artificial lighting, with regional variations including a surge in sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia alongside deliberate dimming in Europe driven by energy conservation and light pollution. Researchers documented a 16% net increase in global nighttime light from 2014 to 2022 but showed a patchwork of regional shifts shaped by urbanization, infrastructure expansion and electrification. The United States had the highest luminosity in 2022, followed by China, India, Canada and Brazil. Emerging economies led brightening while disasters, conflicts and outages caused abrupt dimming, and policies and LEDs drove gradual reductions. Scientists analysed over a million satellite images processed by NASA. Zhe Zhu said Earth's nightscape constantly expands, contracts and shifts. Light pollution disrupts ecosystems, migration and circadian rhythms. Africa and Southeast Asia showed fastest gains as energy access expanded. Conflict zones like Ukraine saw sharp declines during invasion. Europe reduced lighting through regulations and efficient systems. Cities continue evolving lighting patterns.

— Reuters

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Food as medicine? Not quite

Claim: Diet can "cure" schizophrenia and diabetes and allow people to rid themselves of bipolar disorder diagnoses
Fact: There is not enough evidence to recommend a specific diet or as a standalone, without medication such as antipsychotics or mood stabilisers

In the Trump administration's campaign to promote healthy eating, Robert F. Kennedy Jr has not stopped at his slogan urging people to "eat real food" to prevent disease. In recent speeches and podcast appearances, he has also claimed that diet can "cure" schizophrenia and diabetes and allow people to rid themselves of bipolar disorder diagnoses. Researchers say these comments overstate current evidence about the real and promising role food can play in managing illness.

"Food is medicine, and you can heal yourself with a good diet," Kennedy said on Theo Von's podcast in February. This talking point aligns with an idea from his "Make America Healthy Again" allies that has gained bipartisan support: food's role in health deserves more attention. Scientists agree that diet contributes to some diseases and can help treat them. However, public health advocates argue that Kennedy exaggerates findings and cherry-picks research, a pattern they say he has applied to vaccine science as well.

Kayla Hancock from Protect Our Care called his remarks "incredibly careless and irresponsible." Dr Theresa Miskimen Rivera of the American Psychiatric Association warned that such language could push patients to rely only on diet. She said people might think they do not need medication or treatment. Kennedy cited Dr Christopher Palmer's work and said Palmer had "cured schizophrenia using keto diets." Palmer rejected that claim and emphasized the term "remission." Kennedy also referenced studies suggesting people could lose bipolar diagnoses through diet, but those studies remain incomplete. Rivera said existing research consists mostly of small or anecdotal trials without control groups, making conclusions premature.

Palmer expressed optimism about diet as a therapy but urged patients not to stop medications or try restrictive diets without medical guidance.

Kennedy also claimed that "most diabetes can be cured through diet." Experts pushed back. Dr Willa Hsueh noted that Type 1 diabetes cannot be cured through diet, and while lifestyle changes help manage Type 2 diabetes, full reversal remains uncommon. Dr Dariush Mozaffarian said diet can help many patients reduce symptoms and possibly stop medication, though he acknowledged Kennedy's imprecision.

Supporters like Mark Gorton argue that the healthcare system overlooks nutrition and over-relies on medication. However, mental health advocate Kody Green warned that such claims could discourage patients from seeking necessary treatment, stressing that schizophrenia remains a serious illness requiring proper care. — Reuters

State sets single exam pattern

To improve results in board examinations, the Karnataka Education Department is preparing to introduce uniform, state-level question papers for final exams in government high schools and first-year pre-university courses from the current academic year. The move aims to strengthen learning outcomes well before students appear for SSLC and II PU board exams.

Officials said students of Classes 6, 7, 8 and 9 in government schools will receive common question papers prepared at the state level for their annual examinations, helping the department assess learning standards uniformly and address gaps early. The same model will be extended to first-year PU students as well. With over 14,000 high schools and around 2,400 government PU colleges in the state, the initiative is expected to improve academic quality and gradually boost SSLC and PU results in the coming years. The framework for the system will be designed by the Karnataka Quality Assessment Committee and the Department of State Educational Research and Training. —BMB

Student Union elections to begin from PU level

The state government has decided to reintroduce student union elections across all colleges, including undergraduate and postgraduate institutions, from the academic year 2026–27. The move, announced earlier in the state budget by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, will now extend to Pre-University (PU) colleges as well, marking a significant shift in student governance. A committee formed under the leadership of Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has confirmed the decision, with Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil, who is also the committee's convenor, stating that consultations are currently under way with private college managements and university vice-chancellors before final implementation.

The government believes that leadership qualities should be nurtured early and therefore plans to introduce elections from the first year of PU itself. "Leadership skills must develop at the PU stage. After detailed discussions in committee meetings, we have decided to include PU colleges as well," Patil said. He added that inputs from students, parents and stakeholders will be considered, while the committee reviews Lyngdoh guidelines to finalise the election framework. —BMB

Govt schools get admission boost

With the 2026–27 academic year approaching, the state Education Department has launched a major initiative to increase admissions in government schools and colleges. The department has set a target to raise enrolment by 15 per cent compared to the 2025–26 academic year, while Karnataka Public Schools and PM SHRI schools have been given a higher target of 25 per cent growth. Special campaigns are being planned from the beginning of the academic year, including parent-teacher meetings, community outreach programmes and student learning festivals, to create awareness about the facilities available in government institutions and encourage parents to enrol their children.

As part of the initiative, authorities will conduct surveys to identify children aged 6 to 18 who are eligible for schooling, track school dropouts and migrant children, and organise awareness drives through door-to-door campaigns, street plays and the distribution of pamphlets. Information about government welfare schemes such as free textbooks, midday meals and Ksheera Bhagya will also be highlighted. Officials who exceed enrolment targets will be rewarded with opportunities to study international best practices in education. The government is also focusing on expanding Karnataka Public Schools, with plans to establish around 900 institutions at a cost of ₹3,500 crore, aiming to strengthen government education and attract more students amid growing competition from private schools. —BMB

Campus labs fuel startup dreams

The Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) is setting up "Idea Labs" across its affiliated engineering colleges to help students translate their creative ideas into practical solutions and entrepreneurial ventures. With over 200 colleges and around four lakh students under VTU, these labs aim to support innovation in agriculture, transport and everyday challenges by providing modern tools and technology for prototyping and hands-on experimentation. Officials said that, unlike regular labs, Idea Labs will feature advanced equipment such as 3D cutting machines and computers, and will cater to multiple engineering disciplines, including mechanical, civil and computer science. VTU has made it mandatory for all its engineering colleges to establish these labs, integrating them into the curriculum to provide practical learning, foster technical skills and nurture start-up-ready talent. —BMB

Brains meet beats at VTU fest

During college days, students should use platforms to display their talent and shape a bright future," said Visvesvaraya Technological University Vice-Chancellor Dr S Vidyashankar.

Inaugurating the 25th VTU Youth Festival, he said such events help students showcase talent and urged them to participate actively and make the most of opportunities.

He added that VTU gives importance not only to academics but also to extracurricular activities. Highlighting recent initiatives, he said Idea Labs have been introduced from the first semester to encourage innovation. He expressed hope that at least 80% of students would secure placements.

The three-day festival features cultural and tech competitions, with 3,000 students from 220 colleges competing in 25 events for 283 medals.

The event was attended by members of VTU's Academic Council and Executive Council, Dr HR Sudarshan Reddy (Director, VTU Bengaluru Regional Office), CBM Bhushan (Executive Secretary, Acharya Institutions), Dr CK Marigowda (Principal of the college), and others. —BMB

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LAST MAN STANDING: CAPTAIN TO THE RESCUE

Patidar's knock helps RCB post 201 for 8 as wickets crumble at other end

IPL 2026 Festival of cricket

Rajasthan Royals' Ravi Bishnoi celebrates with teammates after dismissing Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Virat Kohli; Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Virat Kohli walks off the field after his dismissal

Skipper Rajat Patidar's fighting 63 off 40 deliveries and a late blitz of 29 off 15 by Venkatesh Iyer propelled defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) to 201/8 against Rajasthan Royals (RR) in the 16th match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 at the Barasapara Cricket Stadium in Guwahati on Friday.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's innings started dramatically as Jofra Archer sent down a vicious bouncer to dismiss Phil Salt on the very first ball. It was an eventful opening over. Archer troubled Virat Kohli with a steep bounce, while Devdutt Padikkal found early boundaries, including a streaky edge and a crisp cut.

Kohli responded in his usual style, whipping and driving with authority to relieve the early pressure. He took on Sandeep Sharma with a couple of strong boundaries. Padikkal supported him well, and the two put together a quick 45-run stand in just 17 deliveries for the second wicket. This briefly put RCB ahead, despite Nandre Burger's probing deliveries that repeatedly beat Kohli with seam and swing.

However, the momentum changed quickly. Archer returned to break the partnership, as Padikkal (14) miscued a flick to long leg, where Shimron Hetmyer made a sharp catch. The turning point came soon after when Ravi Bishnoi delivered a cleverly disguised googly to outsmart Kohli, who was bowled for a quick 32 off 16.

Bishnoi struck again in his next over, removing Krunal Pandya (1), who hit a catch to long-off, where Hetmyer made another fantastic catch. Rajasthan Royals tightened their hold when Brijesh Sharma returned with a wicket, trapping Jitesh Sharma (5) in front.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's captain Rajat Patidar celebrates his half-century

From an early promising position, RCB fell to 76/5 in 8.4 overs, undone by Archer's fiery spell and Bishnoi's crucial double strike, leaving them in urgent need of a steady partnership.

Romario Shepherd sparked RCB's innings briefly. He hit the first six in the 12th over, cleanly lofting Bishnoi over long-off on the first ball he faced. It showed his intent in what was otherwise a struggling innings.

However, just as he started to pose a threat, Shepherd's time ended when he top-edged a slog off Ravindra Jadeja to short fine leg. He scored 22 off 11 balls while wickets fell around him.

Venkatesh Iyer came into a tough situation on his RCB debut, replacing Devdutt Padikkal as an Impact substitute. Initially, RCB planned to bring in Suyash Sharma, but the batting crisis led to a change. Iyer walked in with his Madhya Pradesh teammate Rajat Patidar and quickly changed the pace of the game.

Patiday started cautiously with 20 off 22; he exploded to a brilliant half-century, reaching 50 off just 35 balls within three overs. The turnaround featured powerful shots, particularly against Nandre Burger in the 15th over. A smooth swing sent one ball sailing over long-off, and a quick pull off a short ball flew over deep square leg.

He followed it with back-to-back sixes against Bishnoi but was eventually removed by experienced Sandeep Sharma with a slower delivery on the pads. **IANS**

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Rise of Sooryavanshi

Kumble urges patience

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's record-breaking IPL exploits have triggered calls for an early India cap but spin legend Anil Kumble has advised caution, stressing that the young prodigy's journey should not be rushed.

Speaking on a range of issues during an interaction here on Friday, Kumble noted that while exceptional talent can make it difficult to hold a player back, early expectations can also place unnecessary pressure on a young athlete.

"The player himself probably answers that question," Kumble said, referring to the debate around fast-tracking versus gradual progression.

He drew parallels with the great Sachin Tendulkar, who made an undeniable case for selection as a teenager with consistent performances back in the late 1980s.

Kumble acknowledged that Sooryavanshi has shown promising signs, adding that the 15-year-old boy is "doing all the right things."

"At this point in time, it's a bit of pressure on a young lad to say, 'I want you to play for India in two months' time,'" he said.

Highlighting the advantage of youth, the former India captain pointed out that time is firmly on Sooryavanshi's side.

"Even 10 years later, he's going to be 25," he remarked.

Reiterating that there is no fixed path to success in cricket, Kumble said players can emerge at different stages of their careers and still make significant contributions. He expressed confidence that Sooryavanshi's performances will keep him firmly on the selectors' radar.

"For Vaibhav, it could be this year, next year, or maybe a couple of years later. But the way he is batting, he's certainly someone the selectors will be watching closely," Kumble added.

Each corporation to deploy 2 towing vehicles to clear abandoned vehicles

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and improve road conditions. Officials also indicated that towing charges may be added to fines.

A traffic police official explained that they will be taking actions against vehicle drivers and riders who engage in illegal parking causing obstruction to smooth flow of public traffic. According to data from the traffic police, a total of 2,60,770 cases of wrong parking have been recorded. In addition, 30,823 instances of parking on footpaths, 38,868 cases of vehicles parked at intersections, and 4,121 violations involving parking at BMTC bus stops have also been reported.

Officials said that violations were rampant across key areas, including footpaths, busy intersections, and designated bus stops operated by the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC). Such indiscriminate parking has not only disrupted vehicular movement but also posed significant risks to pedestrians and public transport users.

"It's not how we drive, but how we park that's the real problem. Roads are meant for movement, not parking, yet most of us treat them as free lots. Many commercial complexes and residences are built without adequate parking, which must be stopped at the building planning stage that should only be approved with dedicated parking facilities. Before registering four wheelers, authorities should verify proof of parking.

If malls and tech parks can't provide ample spaces, why approve public-private projects without them in the Detailed Project Report (DPR)? Also public transport stations should have ample parking space and not block roads, especially at the private bus stops," said urban strategist Vinod Jacob.

To streamline enforcement and address earlier allegations of misuse, the department has floated five tenders to appoint authorised towing agencies. In the initial phase, each corporation will deploy two towing vehicles to clear abandoned and improperly parked vehicles, traffic officials said.

Under the revised system, these agencies must follow strict accountability norms. "As per the revised charges issued by the GBA, towing fees have been fixed at ₹1,000 for two-wheelers and ₹1,500 for cars, with traffic police levying separate fines for parking violations.

For two-wheelers, the total payable amounts to ₹1,150, which includes a ₹650 towing charge and a ₹500 fine. In the case of cars and other four-wheelers, the towing charge is ₹1,000 along with a ₹500 fine, bringing the total to ₹1,500," said DCP South Gopal M Byakod, (Traffic). Previously, towing charges stood at ₹300 for two-wheelers and ₹500 for cars, but the revised rates have now doubled. The traffic police plan to roll out the new towing system in phases, with priority given to high-density and congestion-prone areas.

Estranged parent consent kept aside, young athlete can take part in global event

In a significant relief to a young athlete, the High Court has held that passport authorities cannot insist on the consent of an estranged parent if it jeopardises a minor's opportunity to participate in an international sporting event.

The case concerned a 16-year-old Class X student from Bengaluru who had approached the court seeking renewal of her passport to compete in an international taekwondo competition in China scheduled for April 2026. Her application had been stalled by passport authorities who insisted on obtaining her estranged father's signature, citing procedural requirements.

Allowing the plea, Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum observed that such insistence, given the facts of the case, amounted to an overly technical approach that undermined the larger interests of the child.

"...The insistence on the father's signature, in the peculiar facts of the present case, would amount to adopting a hyper-technical approach, which would defeat the larger interest of the minor child...," the court held.

The bench emphasised that the welfare and development of the minor must take precedence, especially where the child has demonstrated exceptional promise. It noted that denying passport renewal on technical grounds would not only prevent her participation in the upcoming event but could also adversely affect her growth as a sportsperson.

"...The petitioner, at a young and impressionable age, has already demonstrated exceptional talent in sports and has earned the opportunity to represent the country at an international level. Denial of passport renewal on technical grounds would not only impede her immediate participation... but would also have a demoralising effect on her growth as an athlete," the court observed.

Court says insistence on father's signature would amount to adopting hyper-technical approach, which would defeat the larger interest of the minor child

The minor's parents had divorced by mutual consent in 2025, with permanent custody granted to the mother and limited visitation rights to the father. Despite being informed about the need for his consent, the father did not respond to repeated requests, the court noted.

In this context, the court held that the father's visitation rights could not override the child's aspirations and opportunities. "...The father's rights, being in the nature of visitation, cannot override the legitimate aspirations and opportunities available to the minor child, particularly when such opportunities contribute to her holistic development and bring recognition to the nation...," the order stated. **BMB**

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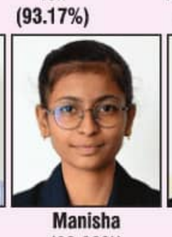
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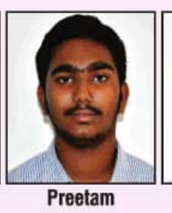
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3 phone-snatchers in police custody

Ramamurthy Nagar police arrested three persons and seized a nine-gram gold chain and five mobile phones worth Rs 2.30 lakh on April 1, acting on a phone-snatching complaint lodged by a resident of Kasturinagar on January 22. Two persons were nabbed on March 3 in DJ Halli near their home. The woman and man arrested were involved in selling stolen mobile phones through a third accused. Police recovered an additional gold chain and one mobile phone from their possession. The third accused was detected in HSR Layout. — BMB

Hoysala team reach in time to prevent suicide

A 28-year-old man hailing from Munireddy Layout, posted a distressing message on his WhatsApp status, stating that today would be his last day. His friend immediately alerted Namma 112. Acting on the lead, Hoysala 215 from Begur Police Station rushed to the man's house in four minutes. On arrival, they found the man locked inside. Understanding the urgency of the incident, the police personnel broke open the door and entered the house. On entering, they found the man in an unconscious condition and immediately shifted him to a Hospital, where the man battled a critical condition. — BMB

Child missing on trek found dead

Three days after a class 10 student from Kerala went missing during a family trip to Manikyadhara Falls in the Chandradrona hill range, she was found dead on Friday, police said. The deceased, identified as Kumari Shrinanda, had been missing since Tuesday evening after she went trekking in the Chandradrona hills, they said.

"The body has been traced, and the clothes she was wearing are intact. The body will be sent for a post-mortem," Chikkamagaluru Superintendent of Police Jitendra Kumar said. — PTI

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MY client, Mr. Nandish K, S/o Krishnappa, residing at No. 238, Adigondanahalli, Bengaluru–560099, has lost the original Sale Deed dated 17.08.1998, Doc. No. BNG(U)-ANKL/1968/98-99, relating to Site No. 516, Sy. No. 18, Jigala Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, at Electronic City on 30.03.2026. Finders are requested to return the same to our office: SHWETHA.V, Advocate, Titlesure Property Services Pvt Ltd, Electronic City, Bengaluru – 560100. Ph: 8310694693.

CHANGE OF NAME

BY an affidavit before the Notary Public Bhubaneswar, dtd. 12.04.16, I Sonakhi Kar, D/o. Satyanarayan Kar have changed my name to Sonakshi Kar. Henceforth, I shall be known as Sonakshi Kar for all purposes.

I, NANDAKUMAR VENKATAPURA MUNIYAPPA (NANDAKUMAR V M) residing at M VENKATAPUR, KAPPALAMADAGU, Kolar, 563131, Karnataka, INDIA today camp at Bangalore today camp at Bangalore have changed my name to NANDUKUMAR VENKATAPURA MUNIYAPPA (NANDUKUMAR V M) vide affidavit dated: 10/4/2026 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore

I, Hemanth Kumar Veerchand Jain, #32, Kamal Kunj, 4th Flr, TS Lane, Obaiah Lane, Near Akkipet Jain Temple, Akkipet Crs, B'lore - 53 have changed to Hemanth Kumar Vide aff Dt.09/04/2026 sworn before Notary Devraja E. B'lore.

I, Guru Prasath Kumar S/O Kumar r/o #Flat No 003 SSVR IRIS, 3rd cross 1st main Bhoganahalli Main Road, JCR Layout, Panathur,Bangalore-560103. I have changed my name to Guru Prasath For all purposes.

I, Bramarambica Ellijala Chandrashekar (old name) W/o Anilkumar Goud Burra, R/o: 24, SLN layout, kithaganuru, bangalore 560036 have changed my name to Bramarambica Burra (new name) for all future purposes

I, Asif Ali Shoukat Ali Mulla, Residing at D321, Amrutha Value, Borewell Road, Nallurhalli, Whitefield, Bengaluru - 560066, have changed my name to Asif Ali Mulla for all future purposes.

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Apoorva R 97.50% Physics - 100/100

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public is hereby informed that Smt. **Dinaz Zarir Sholapurwala**, residing at No. 236/2, "Ahura", Opp. to 6th Cross, 10th Main, Maruthinagar, Malleshpalya, New Thippasandra, Bangalore 560075, is the absolute owner of the property described infra.

The **original sale deed dated 23.06.2004, registered as Doc. No. 7975/2004-05** at the Sub-Registrar, KR Puram, was lost/misplaced during document transit to Standard Chartered Bank, M.G. Road, Bangalore (Mortgagee). A police complaint was lodged on 29.09.2006 at Halasuru P.S., Bangalore.

The sale deed involved Mr. A. Shyam Sundar (previous owner) and sellers Mr. V. Thimma Reddy, Mr. T. Venkataswamy, Mr. T. Nanjunda Reddy, Mr. T. Gajendra & Mrs. Nagamma.

As the document was never found, it is deemed **irretrievably lost**, and the owner shall henceforth deal with the property based on the certified copy.

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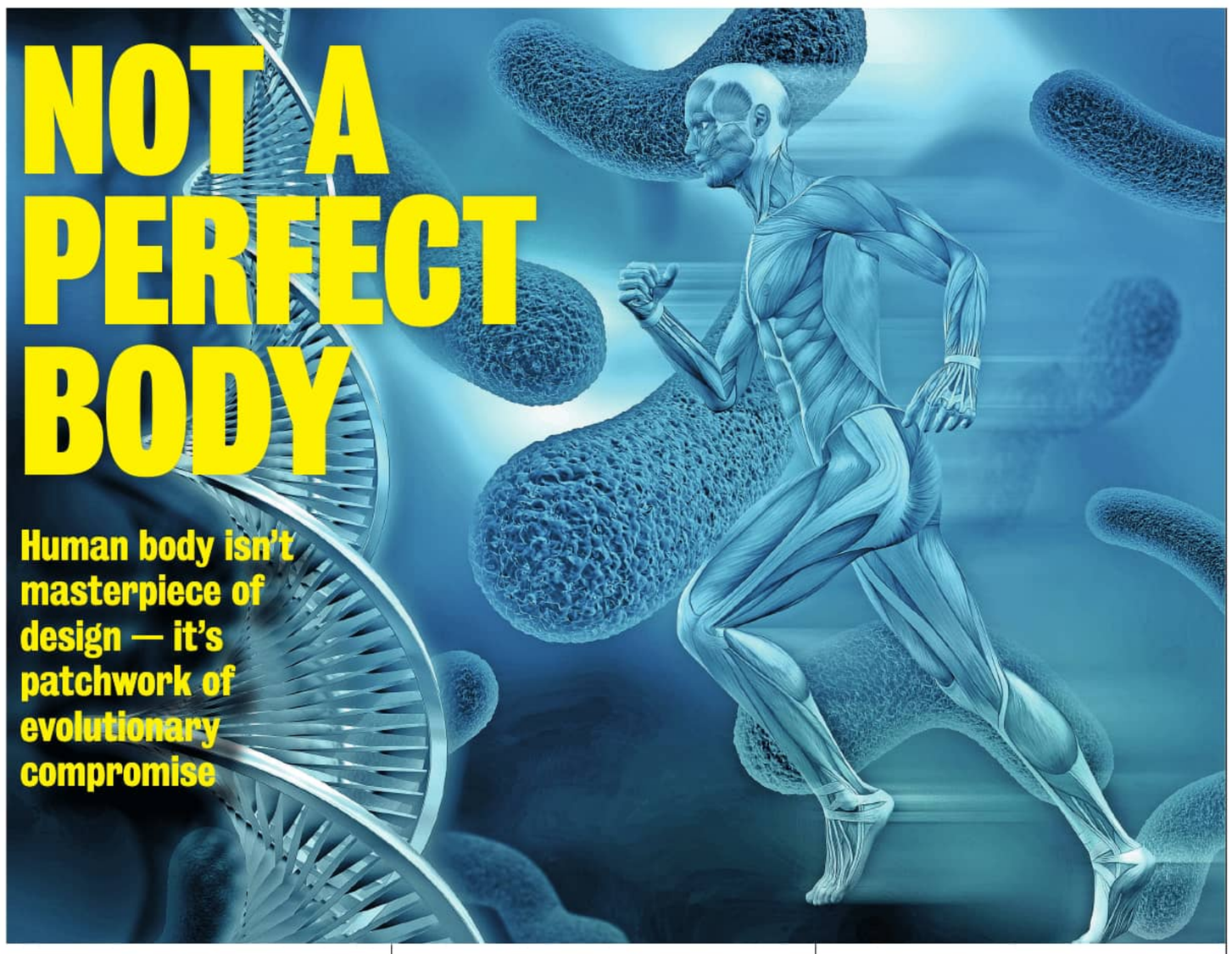
NOT A PERFECT BODY



Human body isn't masterpiece of design — it's patchwork of evolutionary compromise

The human body is often described as a marvel of "perfect design": elegant, efficient and finely tuned for its purpose. Yet, when we look closer, a rather different picture emerges.

Far from being a flawless machine, the body reads more like a patchwork of compromises shaped by millions of years of evolutionary tinkering. Evolution does not design structures from scratch. Rather, it modifies what already exists.

As a result, many aspects of human anatomy are just "good enough" solutions, but far from perfect. Some of the most familiar medical problems and ailments arise directly from these inherited constraints.

The spine

The human spine tells this story best.

Our vertebral column has evolved little from our four-legged, quadrupedal tree-dwelling ancestors, where it functioned primarily as a flexible beam for smooth movement from branch to branch, while also protecting the spinal cord.

When humans adopted an upright bipedal gait, the spine retained these functions. But it was also re-purposed for the additional need of supporting our body weight vertically and maintaining our centre of gravity, while still allowing the flexibility for us to move. These opposing demands creates strain.

The characteristic curves of the human spine helps distribute weight, but it also predisposes us to lower back pain, herniated discs and degenerative changes affecting its most important function -- protection the spinal cord and surrounding nerves.

The neck

Another clear argument against divine design is the recurrent laryngeal nerve, which takes a course that simply makes no sense to invent.

This nerve, which is a branch of the vagus nerve, predominantly controls our organs' "rest and digest" functions (such as slowing heart rate and breath). The laryngeal nerve also connects the brain and larynx, helping control speech and swallowing.

Logically, one might expect it to use the most direct route to connect brain and larynx. Instead, it descends from the brain into the chest, loops around a major artery, then travels back up to the voice box.

This detour is not a clever design, but a historical leftover from our fish-like ancestors when the nerve took a straightforward path around the gill arches. As necks lengthened over evolutionary time, the nerve was stretched rather than rerouted.

This inefficiency can increase our vulnerability to injury during surgery.

The eyes

Even the eyes reflect evolutionary compromise.

In humans and other vertebrates, the retina (the light-sensitive layer at the back of the eyeball) is wired "backwards." This means light must pass through layers of nerve fibres before reaching the photoreceptors -- specialised cells responsible for detecting light -- and converting that into a nerve impulse to send to the brain.

The optic nerve then exits through the back of the retina, creating a blind spot just below the horizontal level of the eye where no vision is possible. The brain fills in this gap seamlessly, so we rarely notice it.

So while we've developed incredible vision and light receptor cells, this has happened at the expense of having a gap in our visual field.

The teeth

Humans develop two sets of teeth: baby teeth and adult teeth. Once adult teeth are lost, they're not replaced unlike sharks, which continually regenerate teeth throughout life.

In mammals, tooth development is tightly regulated and linked to complex jaw growth and feeding strategies. This system worked well for our ancestors, but for modern humans it leaves us vulnerable to decay and tooth loss.

Wisdom teeth provide another example of evolutionary lag. Our ancestors had larger jaws, suited to tougher diets that required heavy chewing. Over time, human diets softened and jaw size decreased. However, the number of teeth did not change as quickly. Many people no longer have space for their third molars -- leading to impaction, crowding and often requiring surgical removal.

The pelvis

Childbirth presents one of the most profound evolutionary compromises. Like the spine, the human pelvis must balance two competing demands: efficient bipedal walking and birthing large-brained infants. A narrow pelvis improves locomotion, but restricts the birth canal's size. Meanwhile, human babies have unusually large heads relative to body size, resulting in a difficult and sometimes dangerous birth process -- often requiring outside assistance.

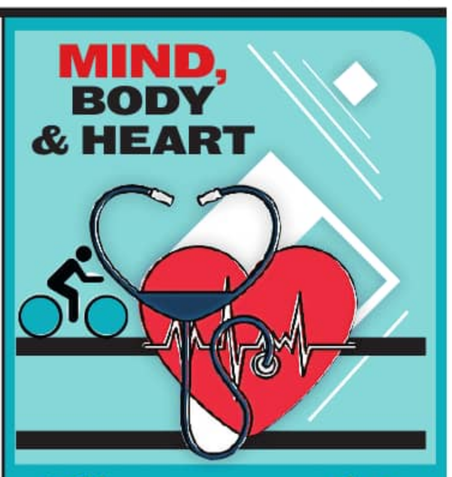
This tension between mobility and brain size has shaped not only anatomy but also social behaviour, encouraging cooperative care and cultural adaptations around childbirth.

Evolutionary persistence

Evolution doesn't necessarily eliminate structures unless they impose a strong disadvantage. So some anatomical features persist despite offering limited benefit.

The appendix, once considered a completely useless evolutionary left-over, is now thought to have minor immune functions. Yet it can become inflamed, causing appendicitis a potentially life-threatening condition..

(By Lucy E Hyde, University of Bristol, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Footcare

Check your feet regularly
Examine your feet regularly for anything that might seem odd. If you observe any cuts, swelling, or discoloration, get them checked out and treat them before they become a larger issue. With every annual checkup you do, go for a routine foot examination too.

Healthy lifestyle routine
Once you are on the track of a healthier lifestyle – including maintaining a balanced diet and staying physically active – you will see the difference it makes to your overall health. Regular physical activity and nourishing meals will help improve blood circulation and reduce the risk of nerve damage, which is especially important for people with diabetes.

Daily foot hygiene
Wash your feet with a mild soap or cleanser and wipe dry properly, especially between the toes. This helps remove dirt, bacteria, and moisture that can lead to infections.

Right footwear
For most cases, it is comfort over looks. At least when you are going to wear them for long hours and be on your feet. Choose shoes that fit properly and provide a good amount of support for the soles. Too tight or too loose footwear can cause blisters, pressure points, and injuries. When the shoes fit well, the body weight is distributed evenly on the feet, which, in turn, reduces the strain on the soles. Those who have pain or existing foot conditions should consider using medically recommended footwear or supportive insoles.

Recognise early warning signs
These signs could present themselves as redness, swelling, numbness, pain, or wounds that do not heal. Early recognition can not only help alleviate the symptoms but also get on the right track for treatment and cure. **—Femina**

MIRRORLIGHTS

Negative effects of artificial sweeteners may pass on to offsprings, study in mice suggests

Negative effects of artificial sweeteners, such as sucralose and stevia, on the gut microbiome and gene expression may pass on to the next generation, according to a study in mice.

Studies have linked artificial sweeteners with gastrointestinal and neurological issues, including headache, and with metabolic conditions such as cardiovascular risk and diabetes.

"We found it intriguing that despite the growing consumption of these additives, the prevalence of obesity and metabolic disorders such as insulin resistance has not declined," lead author Francisca Concha Celume of the University of Chile said.

"This does not mean that sweeteners are responsible for these trends, but it raises the question of whether they influence metabolism in ways we do not yet fully understand," Concha said.

The study, published in the journal Frontiers in Nutrition, fed the mice plain water or water with a dose of sucralose or stevia, comparable to the amount a human might consume as part of a normal diet.

The groups of mice were then bred for two consecutive generations, both of which received plain water.

Each generation received a test for glucose oral tolerance, which tests insulin resistance -- a warning sign for diabetes.

The authors wrote, "Sucralose consumption affects glucose tolerance, the expression of liver Srebp1 and intestinal Tnf and Tlr4, faecal microbiota composition and SCFA (short chain fatty acids) concentrations, and these changes are transmitted across generations. The effects of stevia are mainly observed in the F1 (next) generation." **—PTI**

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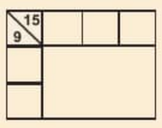
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



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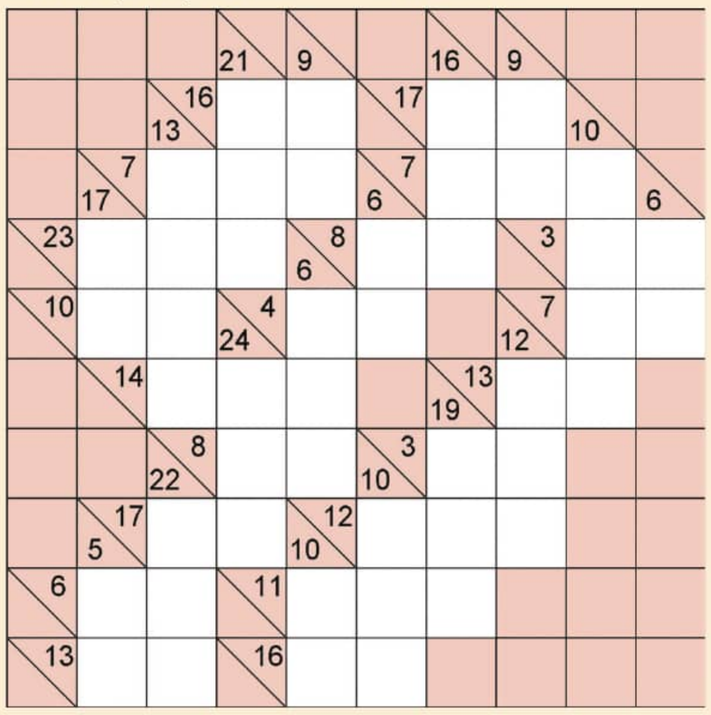
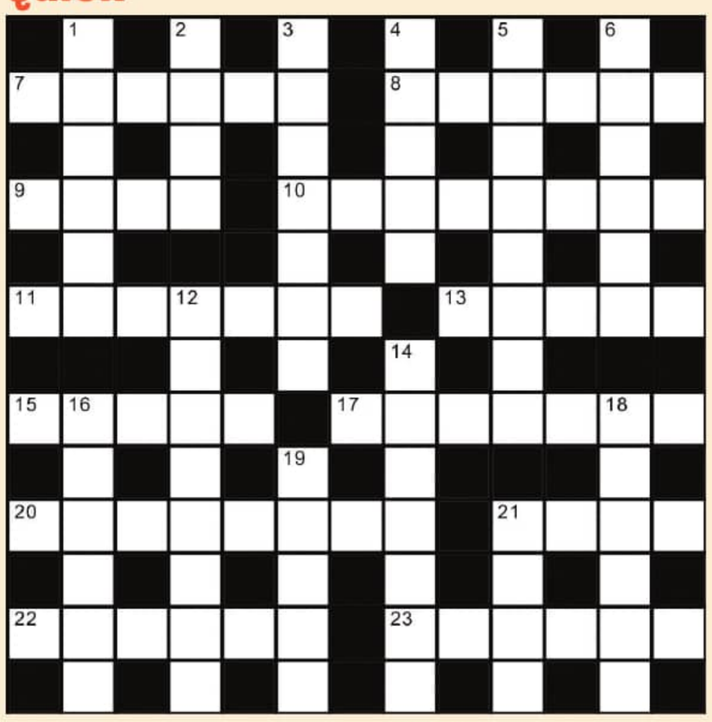


Quick



ACROSS

7 Former Zimbabwe President Robert ____ (6)
8 One putting the cargo in the hold or a ship or in a truck? (6)
9 Wicket-keeper Karim of not so recent past (4)
10 It may be tied by a sailor? (4,4)
11 Put out again (7)
13 Fatuous (5)
15 Share certificate (5)
17 Capital of Sri Lanka (7)
20 Reduces in worth, character, etc.; disgrace; dishonour (4,4)
21 N. England river (4)
22 More expensive (6)
23 Moistened or tinged deeply (6)

DOWN

1 Change by radiation or genetic engineering (6)
2 Ms Sinha of days gone by (4)
3 Huge embrace (4-3)
4 Young eel (5)
5 Convince (4,4)
6 Revitalized or transformed (6)
12 A cutting tool (8)
14 Illuminated at night naturally (7)
16 Small two-door cars (6)
18 ___ on: Relied on (6)
19 Holiday spot in Karnataka (5)
21 Small casks (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: K EQUALS G

UFLXL YXL CS TYCKLXSZA UFSZKFUA; UFW.CEWCK WUALPM WA TYCKLXSZA.

Linemaro

If I were an octopus, all three of my hearts would beat for you

Mindchow

Maturity is the time of life when, if you had the time, you'd have the time of your life

Joke of the day

You go to a psychiatrist when you're slightly cracked and keep going until you're completely broke

Loop

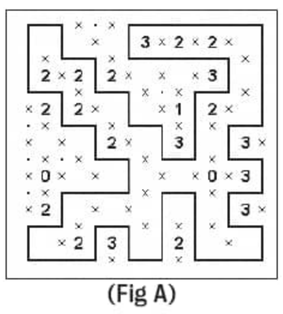
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

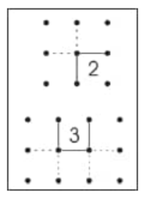
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

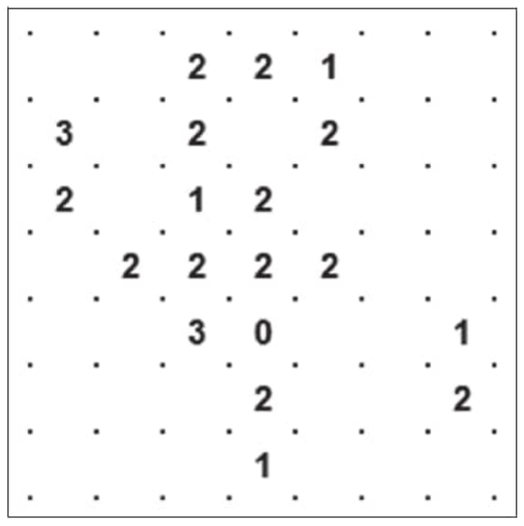
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



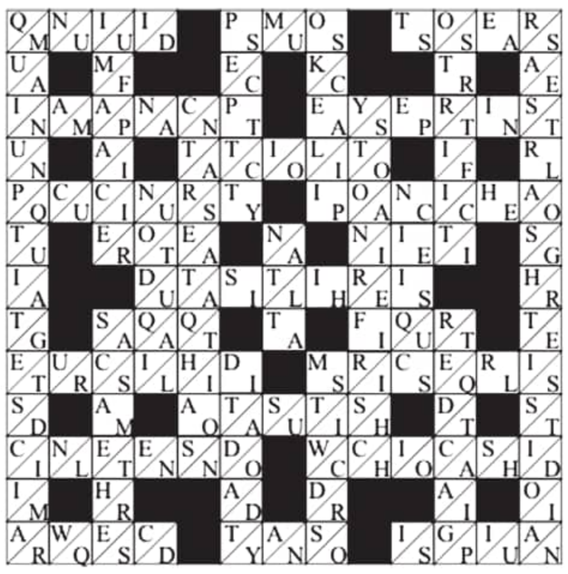
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9			M	

ACROSS

1 Gloss; 6 La Lau; 7 Heats; 8 Gains; 9 Boo my

DOWN

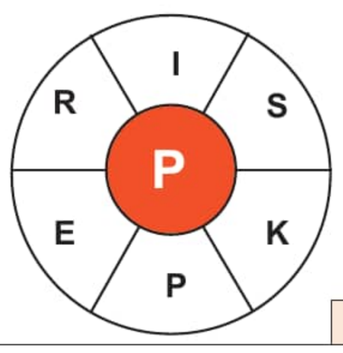
1 I bash; 2 No all; 3 Go out; 4 Ma leg; 5 Says S

Mensapuzzle

Which number is missing?

1	3
3	4
4	7
7	11
11	18
18	

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; **11** Good; **13** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

4		5	6			1		
2			3				4	
	8				5	3	9	
			7				2	9
		7				5		
1	2				4			
	7	1	4				3	
	6				3			1
		4			6	9		8

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 9

3 8 6 4

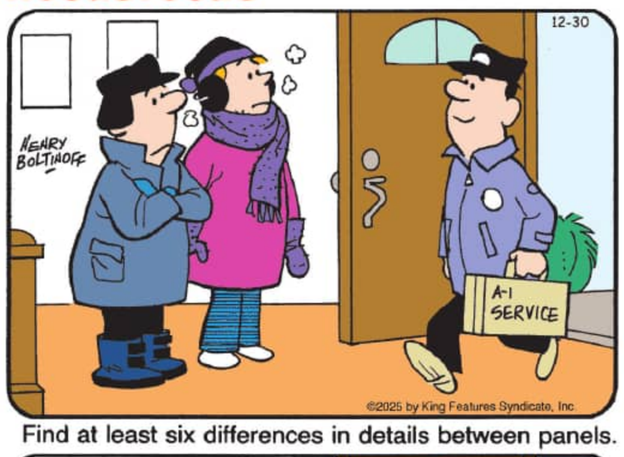
Medium = 5

3 4 4 2

Hard = 7

2 4 4 7

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

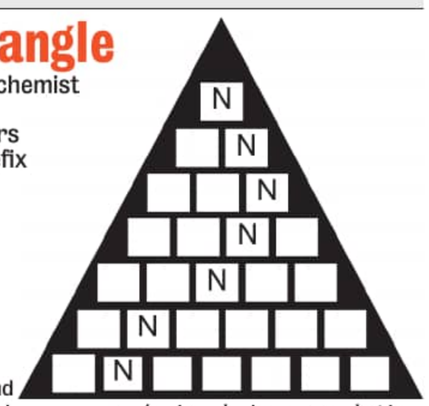
Differences: 1. Pocket is moved. 2. Mouth is open. 3. Foot is different. 4. Earflap is missing. 5. Patch on jacket is larger. 6. Hair is different.

Riddler

Starting with A, add a letter and shuffle to make a new word each time until you reach BREAKS.

Alpha triangle

1 Nitrogen for the chemist
2 A's alternative
3 Columnist Landers
4 One billionth: prefix
5 Rankle
6 Whosoever
7 Analgesic



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

YOUR FATHER IS A CROOK... I'M GOING TO BEAT HIM TO A PULP AND THEN TAKE HIM TO JAIL!
THE SWAB IS ABSOLUKELY RIGHT.... YOU IS A CROOK--
!
-BUT YOU IS ALSO ME ONE AN' ONLY PAPPY!
NOBODY CALLS YA A CROOK BUT ME!
SPLAT!
ERF!
?
7-10
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popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

MAKE ANY RESOLUTIONS FOR NEW YEAR'S, AL?
YOU BETCHA! I JOINED A GYM!
YOU HAVE TO GO THERE, TOO, YOU KNOW
YOU'RE KIDDING ME, RIGHT?
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12/30

Hart of the city

PEOPLE LIKE YOU, DEAN. NOT JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE THE MASCOT.
YOU KNOW EVERYONE'S NAME. YOU ALWAYS HAVE GUM TO SHARE. THAT MEANS A LOT IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
THAT'S WHAT I TOLD BRENT!
GUM IS SOCIAL CURRENCY!!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

IT'S FROM THE WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS!
THEY SAY THAT THE PLAY I GAVE THEM WHEN WE WERE IN WINNIPEG IS GOING INTO THEIR PLAYBOOK... AND AS A THANK YOU, INSTEAD OF ANOTHER GAME BALL...
THEY SENT ME A GAME HELMET!
COOL!
OH, MY!
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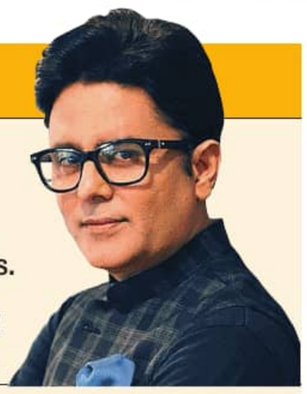
BATIUK & DAVIS
12-30

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

Today you celebrate another orbit around the sun and a year rich with possibility. Travel plans unfold gradually, perhaps linked to career expansion. Romance grows tenderly through patience, laughter, and thoughtful surprises. Finances strengthen with practical choices. At home, warmth, creativity, and meaningful conversations nurture you. Embrace invitations, trust timing, and follow the opportunities that lead you forward this year.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Your ambition feels stronger than ever today, Aries. It will guide you toward the next meaningful direction. Channel your energy wisely, because achieving something others doubted could bring deep personal satisfaction.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Confidence rises today, Leo, inviting bold conversations and creative sparks. A small professional opportunity could appear unexpectedly. Nurture relationships with patience. Evening relaxation brings clarity, helping you plan finances and future travel.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Today brings simple pleasures that remind you how joyful life can be, Sagittarius. Friendly smiles and small surprises brighten your day. Appreciate these little moments that quietly make everything feel lighter.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Your friends are ready to listen, Taurus, so stop carrying your worries alone. Sharing your thoughts will lighten your emotional load. Make time to call someone trustworthy and talk openly about what's troubling you.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Constructive feedback may arrive today, Virgo. Accept it with appreciation rather than defensiveness. Someone offering guidance likely means well, so listen carefully and respond politely if you disagree with their advice.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Change doesn't always require dramatic action, Capricorn. Small adjustments can gradually create the life you want. Don't avoid progress simply because it feels overwhelming, take one manageable step forward today.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Balancing work, relationships, and responsibilities can feel overwhelming today, Gemini. Instead of worrying about distant events, focus on your immediate tasks. Taking things step by step will help you stay calm and productive.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

A professional connection could grow into something more meaningful today, Libra. If romance interests you, move beyond casual conversation and explore deeper topics that help both of you understand each other better.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

Confidence influences how others see you today, Aquarius. If you believe in yourself, others will notice your strength. Trust your abilities and present yourself with assurance in both personal and professional situations.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

It's time to review your financial habits, Cancer. Examine spending patterns and budgeting carefully before things become difficult to manage. Responsible planning now can prevent unnecessary stress in the future.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Perfect harmony at home isn't always realistic, Scorpio. Occasional disagreements are natural and not signs of dysfunction. Express your true feelings honestly instead of hiding them just to avoid conflict.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Managing your time carefully is important today, Pisces. Recent over commitment may increase stress. Prioritise tasks and accept that you cannot help everyone at once, focus on what truly requires your attention.

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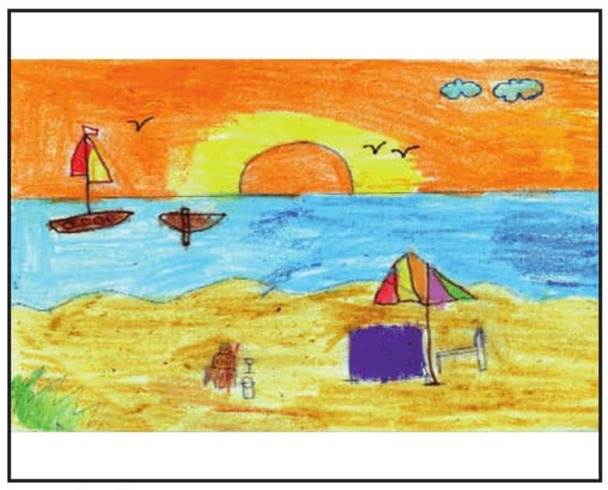
KIDZONE



Aryan, Bengaluru

Rakshitha, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

= 12×1/-3+9
= 4×(-1)+9
= -4+9 = 5

QUOTE UNCODE

There are no dangerous thoughts; thinking itself is dangerous.

BULL'S EYE

kipper, perk, pier, pike, piker, piper, prep, ripe, skip, SKIPPER, spike, spire

FAST FIVE

S	L	O	G	S
A	L	U	L	A
H	A	T	E	S
I	N	G	A	S
B	O	O	M	Y

STRIKE OUT

A	W	E	D		Y	A	O		S	P	I	N
M	H		D		R		A		O
I	N	T	E	N	D		C	H	I	C	H	I
S		A		O	A	S	I	S		D		S
E	U	C	L	I	D		M	I	S	E	R	S
G		S	A	T		T		F	U	R		E
A		D	A	I	L	I	E	S				R
U	R	O	E		A		N	I	T		G
Q	U	I	N	S	Y		P	O	N	C	H	O
N		A		A	T	I	L	T		I		R
I	M	P	A	C	T		E	S	P	R	I	T
U	M			E		K		T		T	S	A	R	E
Q	U	I	D		P	U	S		T	S	A	R

QUICK

S		S		G		T		S		D
D	E	A	R	E	R		I		M	B	U	E	D
	P		O		O		L		U		K
P	U	T	S	D	O	W	N		T	Y	N	E
O		S		C		O			A			
S	C	R	I	P		C	O	L	O	M	B	O
	C		G		M		T					
R	E	I	S	S	U	E		I	N	A	N	E
	T		H		R		I		R			
S	A	B	A	R	E	E	F	K	N	O	T
	T		A		V		L		B			
M	U	G	A	B	E		L	O	A	D	E	R
	M		B		E		T		R			

MENSA PUZZLE

29. As you go down each block of two, the right hand number is duplicated in the left hand square below, and the right hand number equals the sum of the two squares above.

RIDDLER

One solution is A, AS, SEA, EARS, RAKES, BREAKS.

SUDOKU

4	3	5	6	2	9	1	8	7
2	1	9	3	8	7	6	4	5
7	8	6	1	4	5	3	9	2
5	4	3	7	6	1	8	2	9
6	9	7	8	3	2	5	1	4
1	2	8	5	9	4	7	6	3
9	7	1	4	5	8	2	3	6
8	6	2	9	7	3	4	5	1
3	5	4	2	1	6	9	7	8

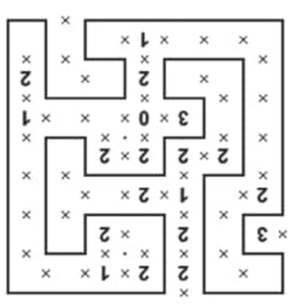
ALPHA TRIANGLE

N, An, Ann, Nano, Annoy, Anyone, Anodyne.

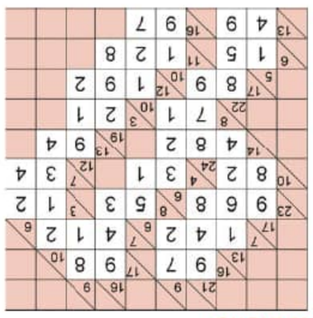
GO FIGURE

Easy
8 + 4 + 3 − 6 = 9
Medium
3 + 2 + 4 − 4 = 5
Hard
4 − 4 x 2 + 7 = 7

LOOP



KAKURO



Volume No 18, Issue No 015 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/22411 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by Lokesh K.V. at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

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